



MDDCSAM is the Maryland state chapter of the American Society of Addiction Medicine whose members are physicians and other health providers who treat people with substance use disorders.

SB 637 Behavioral Health Services - Expansion (Behavioral Health System Modernization Act)
Senate Finance Committee. February 23, 2022

SUPPORT

Mental health and substance use disorders are at an all-time high, and rates are increasing. More is needed to address these largely treatable and preventable diseases. This was also true before the COVID-19 pandemic.

Fatal drug overdoses increased faster than at any time in U.S. history, by over 30% in a year, setting a grim milestone: **a record 100,000 deaths in one year in the U.S.** (1, CDC)

About half of adults with mental illness and co-occurring substance use disorder received no treatment for either disorder in the past year. Yet both conditions are treatable. (2. SAMHSA)

Many overdoses occur in people with suicidal thoughts; some are likely suicides. Substance use disorders (SUD) overlap with mental health disorders extensively. **About half of those who experience a mental illness will also experience a substance use disorder and vice versa.** (3. NIDA)

The Behavioral Health System Modernization Act will . . .

- Expand Maryland's network of Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics (CCBHCs). These provide state-of-the-art treatment that is data-driven and integrated across disciplines.
- Expand data-driven, measurement-based treatment across a range of settings.
- Expand peer support – critical for access to care, and for effective care.
- Increase home- and community-based wraparound services for children and youth.
- Increase effectiveness and reduce costs by diverting behavioral health care from law enforcement and emergency departments to crisis teams and stabilization facilities.
- Improve behavioral health treatment in primary care settings through collaborative care.

REFERENCES

1. 12-month period ending April 2021. www.cdc.gov/nchs/nvss/vsrr/drug-overdose-data.htm
2. Substance Use Disorder Treatment for People With Co-Occurring Disorders Treatment Improvement Protocol 42 SAMHSA UPDATED 2020
3. NIDA. 2021, April 13. Part 1: The Connection Between Substance Use Disorders and Mental

Respectfully,
Joseph A. Adams, MD, FASAM, Chair, Public Policy Committee